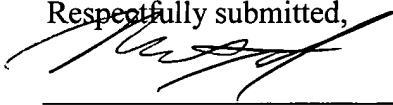


to clarify the specification as provided in the utility application filed herewith and are supported by the specification as filed provisionally on July 20, 2000. The utility application filed herewith represents the conversion of the current case from provisional filing status to utility status and entrance into substantive prosecution. It is Applicant's belief that the specification as originally filed provisionally fully supports both the claims as provided in the utility application as well as the figure legends added herein.

Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments prior to examination of the utility Application. If the Examiner cannot issue an immediate Notice of Allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney with a view towards discussing the outstanding issues. No fee, other than those needed to file this utility application and its claims, is deemed necessary. However, if any additional fee is required, the Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the amount of such fee to the undersigned attorney's Deposit Account No. 19-4709.

Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



for James J. DeCarlo #36,120
Registration No. 36,120
Attorney for Applicants
STROOCK & STROOCK & LAVAN LLP
180 Maiden Lane
New York, New York 10038-4982
(212) 806-6663

00010502-072004